GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1206
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2002
COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have achieved the desired targets fixed for the Cooperative movement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government have identified the obstacles in achieving the targets of this movement; and

(d) the steps being taken to remove such obstacles?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): The Government have not fixed any such targets for the co-operative movement. Cooperatives are organization of the members i.e. shareholders. The Government, however, have been playing the role of a catylic agent for the promotion and development of co- operatives. The co-operative movement in India is the largest in the world with more than 5,00,000 societies and about 22 crore membership covering almost 100% villages. The credit co-operatives advance about 43% of the total institutional agricultural credit. The co-operative share in sugar production is about 56% and 30% of the total fertilizer is distributed by the co-operatives. 55% of handlooms and 28% of the retail fare price shops are in co-operative sector.

There has been a mixed success of the co-operatives. Some have done well while the others have not done so well.

(c) & (d): Government have identified the constraints hampering healthy and sound development of co-operatives. These constraints are like; infrastructural constraints, lack of resources, lack of professionalism, operational inefficiency, absence of active participation of members, legislative and policy constraints etc. The Government have taken certain steps for removing these constraints. The existing Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 has been replaced by new Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act,2002 to give more functional autonomy to these institutions. The Government has also announced a National Policy on Cooperatives in consultation with States to provide appropriate policy and legislative framework to provide conducive environment for sound and healthy growth of the co-operative movement and to make it members driven and people`s movement instead of government run institutions.